

# THE PARKSIDE PARENT CONNECTION

April-May 2011

Principal Andrea Somoza-Norton  
Assistant Principal Kim Organek  
Assistant Principal Ken Roy



## Mark your calendar

- ◆ 5/17-18 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
NECAP Science Test
- ◆ 5/25 Night of the Arts
- ◆ 5/30 No School
- ◆ 6/3 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance
- ◆ 6/16 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Promotion Ceremony
- ◆ 6/17 Last Day of  
School

## Principal's News

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are so close to the end of the school year! Time has passed quickly. In May we are completing district assessments and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the NECAP Science Test. Please encourage your student to put their best effort into these assessments, be well rested and on time for school. The NECAP results are important to target students' future academic needs and help them to improve in specific areas.

The Night of the Arts will be on May 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30PM. Unified Art teachers have been preparing for this event and are excited to showcase students' projects. Everyone is invited to attend!

Progress reports went home on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Students should pay attention to their Quarter 4 grades and if necessary have a plan to raise their grades. Also, good attendance makes a difference and positively impact students' grades and behavior. As always, I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Norton

## Assistant Principals' News

### Dress Code

The warm weather has finally arrived, which means it is time for a dress code reminder. Appropriate attire is defined as clean clothing that is free of holes or tears that would be reasonably deemed not to violate limits of decency, that appropriately covers the body and that helps to maintain a healthy and safe school environment.

Please be aware students will be required to change or go home if they arrive at school wearing any of the following: tops that are backless or have spaghetti straps, shorts shorter than mid-thigh or fingertip length, head coverings, or see-through or transparent clothing.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Organek/Mr. Roy

## Parent Teacher Group



### PARKSIDE PTG UPDATES

Last meeting was held on April 7, 2011 and was here at Middle school at Parkside in the conference room during which the following topics were discussed.

#### Old News:

On Saturday April 9, 2011 here at Parkside the outside clean up started and the following people came to help out Mr. David Sweesy and his sons Benjamin, Logan and Maxwell in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Keefe. They removed the old plastic liner and mulch by the front section of Parkside. This was done in preparation for the new loam to be placed and then new seeds within the next few weeks. The red tulips placed last year during "Red Ribbon Week" are now coming through and now form a red ribbon shape.

Date for the Parkside Annual Clean UP is May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00; volunteers are greatly appreciated for this event. This usually occurs during the month of May or early June.

#### Fundraisers:

Cookie Dough Fundraiser was a great success, which was held in November and will be repeated again in the upcoming school year.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser was also a great success and will also be repeated in the upcoming school year. Additional Fundraises were discussed such as "Coupon Books" to be sold were discussed.

#### Events: PAST

PTG assisted with chaperones for the following events

April 8, 2011 the Music Dept had their trip to Boston to see the Blue Man Group and all those who attended had a great time.

April 12, 2011 Talent Show

April 15, 2011 Grade 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th students enjoyed "the Spring Fling Dance"

April 24 through the 27, the 8th grade students enjoyed a trip to Washington D.C.

#### Events Upcoming:

Induction Ceremony for the National Honor Society May 17<sup>th</sup>

Autism Bake Sale May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> {all donations excepted}

May 25<sup>th</sup> "The Night of The Arts"

May 27<sup>th</sup> NFL players come to Parkside [school wide event]

May 30<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL Memorial Day

#### Purchased by the PTG:

Gator Skins /PE equipment	\$87:00
Mrs. Barber	\$150:00
Mrs. Rollend Cooking Equipment	\$450:00
Mrs. Cornell NECAP ceremony supplies	\$150.00

#### Future Purchase:

Mrs. Cornell	Tiger Program /Plymouth State University	\$1800
Mrs. Tafe	Ink and Toner cartridges for the library carts	\$100

## Guidance News

### Greetings from Guidance!

#### Mrs. Cornell - 6<sup>th</sup>

Only a few weeks left in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the time has flown by. The Annual Parkside Talent show took place in April, another great show with many talented acts. The end of the year always seems so busy with various activities, concerts, Night of the Arts, National Junior Honor Society Induction, and a ceremony honoring those who scored Proficient with Distinction on the NECAP. Parents are invited to attend all of these activities and it is a nice time to celebrate the positive things the students do.

#### Ms. Darby/7<sup>th</sup> grade

This has been a fantastic year and I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed working with your children again this year. The school year is quickly coming to a close and soon the summer months will be upon us. Although it is important for your child to enjoy his/her time off from school, children no matter the age, still crave the structure and routine that the school setting provides. There are many different things that you can do to keep your child busy and engaged over the summer while keeping them "unplugged" from the computer, video games and cell phones. Although most children this age are too young for a work permit, they can still get a part-time job such as babysitting, lawn mowing, or dog walking. Not only will your child be making his/her own money but he/she will be learning valuable life skills. Check out the City of Manchester website for activities going on during the summer months. There are always nighttime events such as concerts in the park, outdoor theater, and magic shows that are free of charge. Check out the local library to see if there is a teen program. Libraries often run teen book clubs, movies nights and other enticing activities to encourage kids to read. Students who continue to read throughout the summer months will be much better prepared for the upcoming school year. Although some kids this age might resist the idea, summer camp can still be a lot of fun. If your child has been a regular attendee of a camp and is now too old to attend, investigate the possibility of a counselor-in-training program. Lastly, involve your child in a summer sports league. The YMCA usually has a wide variety of offerings as well as independent area leagues and sports centers.

Have a safe and happy summer!!!!

Ms. Darby

#### Mr. Liakos / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

On April 20, eighth graders experienced their final Career Day. Students who have been enrolled at Parkside since grade six have now attended three Career Days. That translates into having attended nine different career presentations given by business professionals from the local community. In addition, last December eighth graders completed an online career interest inventory survey and created their own portfolio which I encourage them to revisit and update periodically.

Another terrific opportunity to explore career interests happens this summer at the second annual Manchester School of Technology 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade summer camp. Our eighth graders who attended last summer really enjoyed the camp. The one-week camp will be held July 25-29. Hours are from 9AM to 3PM. Tuition is \$49 and includes lunch and transportation to and from Parkside. Participants will explore ten different career areas. More information is available at [www.mstnh.org](http://www.mstnh.org). Applications can also be obtained from my office.

Freshman orientation for all Parkside students entering West High School next year will take place on June 16 from 11:30AM - 1:30PM. The program includes introductions and a showing of a video of West High School followed by a tour of the school. Students will be treated to lunch and will also receive a surprise gift!

Finally, as we approach the end of another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the class of 2011 and their parents all the best in the future. It has been my pleasure working with you for the past three years.

## Nurse Corner



Finally, no snow and a spring thaw!

Unfortunately, with the warmer weather come issues with heat and sun. Students are encouraged to drink plenty of fluids throughout the day and more if they will be outside doing activities and use sunscreen while in the direct sun.

Dehydration can occur at any time of the year if we do not keep our bodies hydrated. Most people just assume it only occur during the warmer times of the year. However, there are more reported cases during the colder season than warmer.

We as parents of our students should encourage our students to eat well, drink plenty of fluids and sleep well. When we take in the proper diet and proper amount of sleep we are collectively healthier and more productive. When our students feel better they are more. Often found to be better academically and physically.

During the months of February, March, and April we have been doing health screenings and we have had the Dental van here at the school doing dental cleanings and some minor dental procedures.

We continue to encourage wellness throughout the year and have just concluded the "Get Moving Manchester Program" here at school. The grade 6 students were involved in this program and did well. The Middle School @ Parkside continues to be evolved with the New England Dairy Council and the New England Patriots program Fuel Up to Play. This is our second year in which we have continued to provide nutritional and physical activities for students in addition to their physical education and the student's seem to like these programs.

Now that the warmer weather is here we should all get outside and stay moving. We can encourage our families to take walk, ride a bike, go on a hike, play basketball, throw a Frisbee or any other activity which you like. The more active we are the healthier we can become!

Parents should encourage our students to use the proper Safety Equipment such as helmets especially when using a skateboard, bicycle, roller blades, or anything else to prevent a traumatic head injury during a fall.

For Questions or Concerns call or email @ [lkeefe@mansd.org](mailto:lkeefe@mansd.org)  
Call: 624 6356 EXT 16

Happy Spring!!!